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LETTER DATED 19 JULY 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward, enclosed herewith, a copy of the letter of Dr. Rodoljub Etinski, Chairman of the Delegation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for Negotiations with the Delegation of the Republic of Croatia on Establishing the Extension of the State Border between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia in Sector South and the Solution of the Disputed Issue of Prevlaka, addressed to Dr. Hrvoje Kacic, Chairman of the Delegation for a Lasting Solution of the Security Issue of Prevlaka of the State Borders Commission of the Government of the Republic of Croatia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 14 July 1999 from the Chairman of the Delegation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for Negotiations with the Delegation of the Republic of Croatia on Establishing the Extension of the State Border between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia in Sector South and the Solution of the Disputed Issue of Prevlaka addressed to the Chairman of the Delegation for a Lasting Solution of the Security Issue of Prevlaka of the State Borders Commission of the Republic of Croatia

In accordance with their obligations under the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, the report of the Secretary-General and the Agreement on Normalization of Relations signed at Belgrade on 23 August 1996, the delegations of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia have held four rounds of negotiations so far on establishing the extension of the State border in Sector South and the solution of the disputed issue of Prevlaka (Zagreb, 15 September 1998; Belgrade, 9 October 1998; Zagreb, 23 December 1998; and Belgrade, 9 March 1999).

Following the fourth meeting in Belgrade, the two sides exchanged materials presenting their opinions and argumentation on the legal basis on which each side rests its claims on where the inter-State border extends. These materials have been forwarded to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the members of the Security Council.

Because of the aggression of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the two sides were prevented from continuing their negotiations under normal conditions on the basis of full equality, according to jointly adopted principles and the procedures and principles of conscientious negotiating. By the cessation of the NATO aggression, objective impediments to the continuation of the initiated negotiations on the solution of the disputed issue of Prevlaka have been removed.

The Yugoslav side expresses its readiness to continue the negotiations without delay with the aim of reaching a solution for this disputed issue as soon as possible.

Considering that the last meeting of the delegations was held in Belgrade and that, in accordance with the adopted rules of the negotiating procedure (item 1), "the delegations of the two sides shall meet alternately in the territory of one and the other side", we expect that Croatia will soon propose

that the next meeting be held in Zagreb. The Yugoslav side considers that a serious and comprehensive consideration of the presented argumentation should take place at the next meeting, in accordance with the principles of conscientious negotiating and the obligations under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Rodoljub ETINSKI
Ambassador
Chairman of Delegation